



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

No. 43

## Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our Saviour, Your word reminds us that to whom much is given, much will be required. Look with favor upon our lawmakers today. May they endeavor this and every day to be what You command. Give them ears to hear the inner voice of Your holy spirit, who searches the depths of their hearts, in order to lead them to Your truth. Imbue them with wisdom to face every challenge with grateful dependence upon You. Lord, let Your creative power touch them so that they will find solutions to the problems that beset our land. Free them from anxiety and fear, as they discover the independence which comes from trusting Your sovereignty.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNET thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control all the morning business time; that is, until 11:30. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of David Ogden, to be Deputy Attorney General. The time until 4:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. Under an agreement reached last night, the vote on the confirmation of the Ogden nomination will occur at a time to be agreed upon tomorrow.

We are also working on a number of other nominations. We are going to spend this week on nominations—at least the next day or so. We are working on Thomas Perrelli to be Associate Attorney General and a number of others. We hope the Republicans will work with us on getting some of these nominations cleared. We are glad we got a couple of the Council of Economic Advisers done last night. I appreciate that good work. We will see what happens as the day proceeds.

This is a day with no votes. Certainly, I think we deserve that, based on what we have been through in the

last several weeks. We are going to have our annual meeting with the Supreme Court Justices tonight. I remind all Senators of that. It is one of the rare times when the two branches of Government meet in a social setting where we will have the Supreme Court Justices and the Senators there in the Supreme Court. It has been very helpful in years past, and I am confident it will be a very nice event tonight.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time controlled by the Republicans.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I wish to address, again, the issue of the budget as proposed by the President of the United States, which is about to be

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2991